

From the Desk of...

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Portland, OR 97239

August 19, 2016

RECEIVED
OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

AUG 22 2016

EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

I don't agree with any part of the EPA's proposed plan to dig contaminants out of the Willamette River. They are not causing any major damage to Portland right now. It's preposterous to think of going forward with a \$1 billion proposal that would interfere with a thriving part of our city. This project would be a disaster for people like my husband who is a fisherman. We've been here 25 years. I think it makes no financial sense to shut down areas on the waterfront that we depend on for recreation, business and tourism. We eat at Newport Bay. Like many other locals, as well as tourists, we enjoy walking along the promenade or riding our bikes. The best part is just looking out at the water from the bridges. None of these things will be available once the EPA decides to steamroll the area and quite possibly make things worse. I think we need to focus this money on other things that are more important right now. The homeless in Portland, for example, really need our help.

While I understand there's a problem, I don't agree with doing something that could take decades to complete, costing jobs along the way. We probably won't feel the effect immediately, but the trickle-down effect will be felt in the years to come. We're middle class. Right now, we're a one-income family due to illness. If the EPA plan goes forward, our property taxes and many other things would increase to pay for it, creating a real financial burden for us.

We are not the only ones who will be affected. There's the Port of Portland and businesses on the river like Willamette Jet Boats, that rely on that passageway. When you implement a plan that prevents businesses from continuing, you are actually hurting the community you're supposed to help. Surely, there's a better idea, another plan to remove any potential danger these hazardous chemicals could pose without affecting the entire Portland economy. Studies have shown that contamination has been reduced and that the river is starting to heal itself. Giving that a chance to work first might be a much better and less destructive plan.

(b) (6)

Portland, OR 97239